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NAVY

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 991, June 14, 4 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
file

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Faced with increasing evidence that campaign of arrests has not succeeded in repressing opposition (EMBTEL 978, June 13), Guatemalan authorities appear to be resorting to even more extreme measures to bolster regime. Embassy reliably informed that one Alfredo Abularach, proprietor of small hardware and sporting arms store, was arrested June 12 and that his badly beaten body was returned to family June 13 by police who said he had committed suicide. On June 11 Perfecto Villegas, whose arrest reported EMBTEL 873, June 2, and who is cousin of Castillo Armas, was found lying unconscious in street, ostensibly victim of hit and run driver. He died in hospital following day. There is completely unconfirmed rumor that Gabriel Martinez del Rosal, young anti-Communist attorney recently arrested, has been liquidated. But little is lacking to justify description of present situation as reign of terror.

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